Discontentment among Scientific Officers of D.G.Q.A.

2299. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientific Officers of D.G.Q.A. have been expressing serious discontentment due to nonavailability of opportunities at senior level like the posts of D.G.Q.A. Technical Directors, Controllers, SQAOs, etc.;

(b) if so, the statutory regulations for filling up these senior posts and whether it is being scrupulously implemented; and

(c) if not, the details along with a comparative data in respect of all Service Officers posts and their equivalent Civilian Officers posts above Major level, year-wise, for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Officers of the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) are drawn from the Civilian cadre of Defence Quality Assurance Service (DQAS) and from the cadre of Defence Forces. Each cadre is governed by Rules and Regulations applicable to it.

2. Members of the DQAS have represented that they are accorded less opportunity to hold independent charge relative to Defence Service Officers.

3. Government assigns responsibilities keeping in view requirements, exigencies and career prospects of each cadre.

Service Officers in D.G.Q.A.

2300. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for continued employment of Service Officers in Directorate General of Quality Assurance (D.G.Q.A.) when it has its own dedicated cadre of Scientists and Engineers created for the Organisation in 1979;

(b) the reasons for employment of two kinds of Service Officers within D.G.Q.A., with differing war liabilities, retirement age and other service conditions namely, tenure and permanently seconded Service Officers; and

(c) their mutual ratio as well as ratio with respect to Group 'A' posts in D.G.Q.A., both actual and as laid down by policy, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) DGQA is an Inter Service Organisation responsible for quality assurance of Defence Stores and needs to be manned by officers possessing field expertise as well as those with academic specialisation. Initial induction of officers from the services is on tenure basis. Thereafter, permanent secondment is considered depending on their suitability.

(c) The prescribed ratio of tenure officers to permanently seconded service officers is 50:50. Under a policy adopted in 1982, the ratio of Civilian Officers to Service Officers is 56:44, which is being maintained overall.

Firing by Pakistan along LOC

2301. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has stepped up firing along the actual line of control in Kargil, Machal and Gurez sectors in Kashmir to push infiltrators and militants from the Pakistan occupied Kashmir and also to disrupt vehicular traffic between Srinagar-Leh highway between Kashmir and Ladakh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has airlifted by helicopters artillery guns at LOSAR-II Post in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir opposite to Machal-Gurez Sector; and